

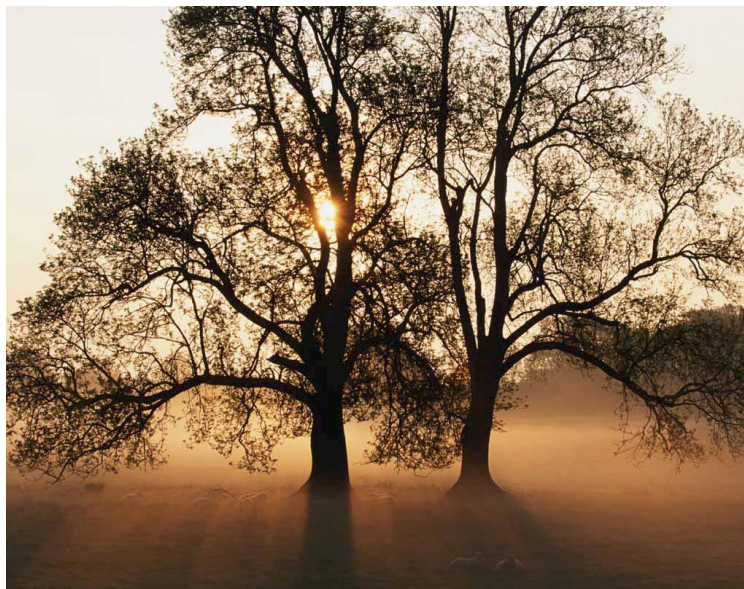
WHITEHALL PARK AREA
RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

www.whpara.org.uk

info@whpara.org.uk

*SPRING/SUMMER
NEWSLETTER 2011*



Dear Members,

This year's Winter brought a big surprise! After years of waiting and hoping for a white Christmas right on time we finally had snow and ice. What a delight to wake up to a Winter Wonderland much to the joy of children as well as grownups – I saw one of my neighbours on skis!! And the snowmen adorning gateposts in some streets brought smiles to faces. However, for some families the extended school holidays may have been a problem for working parents. But, January is behind us and though Winter has not yet lost its cold grip on the country, mornings are noticeably lighter and soon trees and shrubs will lose their drabness. Bare branches will be sprouting green buds.

With new life there is hope and a Royal Wedding to look forward to in April. Although we do not minimise the challenges facing us at this time, in the form of reduction in funding in many essential areas with knock-on effect on many aspects of our lives, there are signs of new initiatives, a spirit of cooperation among neighbours and a determination to make the best of whatever the future holds. We can be forgiven a few grumbles along the way...

So here's to Spring.

Chair, WHPARA

Looking back at last year, the **ANNUAL CHARITY CONCERT in aid of the Cold Weather Night Shelter for the homeless** at St. Andrew's Church started the festive season on a real high. Layil Barr returned on the 3rd December with The Telling, a group of artistes – Patience Tomlinson (actress), Clare Norburn (soprano), Joy Smith (harp, recorders, percussion) and Emily Askew (fiddle, bagpipes, recorders), who entertained us with songs, ballads and readings depicting a celebration of Christmas in olden times. The programme included a bawdy drinking song from the *Carmina Burana*, as well as carols from the late 14th and 15th centuries. Life in medieval England was portrayed in music, song and story-telling through accomplished artistes. Once again a delightful evening's entertainment aided by mulled wine and mince pies!

WATCH OUT FOR THE NEXT CONCERT LATER IN THE YEAR.

LOOKING AHEAD -

??? QUIZ NIGHT ??? at St. Andrew's Church, Whitehall Park, on **Saturday, 2nd April at 6.30pm**. No need to be an Egghead! Questions to suit young as well as older folk. Come and test your memory and enjoy tasty food and drink. Family and friends are all welcome **AND BEST OF ALL, IT IS FREE.**

This year's **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** will be held early in **MAY**. This is your chance to meet the Committee. We are planning to have a Guest Speaker. Check our website: www.whpara@org.uk for more information by end of March.

FAMILY FUN DAY - JULY

A great occasion to see the kids having a go at the Bouncy Castle. For the adventurous here's the chance to become Spiderman or a fierce tiger – let your imagination conjure up your own fantasy. And for the grownups what better way to meet the new neighbours and greet friends while enjoying tea and cakes.

WE WILL HAVE POSTERS ANNOUNCING THIS EVENT.

C P Z

Back to last December when there was widespread alarm at the news that Islington Council were about to introduce a new Residents Roamer Parking Scheme from the 1st January 2011. This would allow residents holding valid parking permits to park anywhere in Islington. Some car owners also received notification of the increase in parking fees. Indignation was felt at the short notice and lack of consultation. Residents galvanised into action. Protests poured in to council officials and local representatives making the case that our proximity to shops, business offices and the



Whittington Hospital would once again turn our streets into car parks as happened before the CPZ was first introduced. The resulting increase in emissions from traffic was also cause for concern. At two meetings called by our Council Representative, Greg FoxSmith, residents voiced their objections in person and he was left in no doubt about the depth of feeling against the scheme. Subsequently, **Islington Council met and the decision was taken to alter the existing time (10am – 2pm) to 11am – 3pm**. The new time scale came

into operation from 28th January. We await further assessment of the situation.

ENVIRONMENT: Whitehall Park Eco-Team was officially launched on 12th January through the initiative of Jon Grayson and Ken Kitson. Householders in Harberton Road were invited to a meeting at Jon's home at 73 Harberton Road to kick-off discussions. This is an extract of what he wrote after the meeting –

Thanks to all of you who have shown an interest in our newly formed eco-team and would like to hear more and get involved. Our numbers stand at 26 spanning a number of our local streets. To keep it manageable we will stay focused on Whitehall Park so the issues can stay local ...The plan is to have semi-regular meetings every couple of months...Below is a quick update on what our 'eco-team' hopes to do – and some ideas we have picked up from our brief chats...Our aim is to be a local community support group on green/eco matters.

We are participating in a wider national eco-team project, where some of us will be looking at measuring and reducing rubbish, energy and water usage. We welcome any of you to join in with this aspect as it will be part-educational too. The Council is supporting a number of eco-teams within the borough (non-financially – but we do therefore have a voice and a wider network to tap into).

Some suggestions of topics and activities

- *Keeping abreast of what other groups, schemes etc. are up to and what they are seeking to do (e.g. low carbon zones, transition towns etc.)*
- *Sharing DIY tools*
- *Book swap (and not just eco-books)*
- *Teaming up with suppliers for bulk discounts*
- *Sharing home greening tips (e.g draught proofing, chimney balloons)*

- *Sharing energy meters*
- *Latest offers, recent schemes and relevant news*
- *Visits to eco-renovated Victorian houses*
- *Demonstrations and talks from the Council green staff*
- *Sharing advice on reliable builders etc.*

If you are interested in these issues and wish to find out email:

whitehallparkecoteam@gmail.com or jennydaly@islington.gov.uk.

And for something lighthearted but with a message, why not pop along to the

“Low Carbon Zone Juke Box Event” on Monday 14th March from 3.30-6.30pm at the Archway Tower. See an amazing display of bicycle pedalling power creating MUSIC. Local talent will present their own compositions and favourite songs. All this with good advice on low carbon sustainability.

POLICE NEWS: Burglary incidents in Gladsmuir Road continue to cause concern among residents. It was also reported that squatters were occupying 38 Gladsmuir Road. As the holiday season approaches be extra vigilant and ask a friend or neighbour to keep an eye on your property if you intend to be away for some time. The Hillrise Safer Neighbour Team are:

Police Sergeant Aidan Driver

PC Mick Murray

PC Eddy Kemp

PC Bernie Hayde

PCSO Ben Nicholson and PCSO Patrick Fan

Contact numbers: 02083453921 and 07876216301

email: hillrise.snt@met.police.uk. Emergency No: 999

WHAT TO DO if you notice someone with a dog “doing his business” on the street. In spite of notices everywhere warning dog owners that they could be fined £80 for allowing their dogs to foul the pavements this has not deterred some offenders. You can get in touch with **Frank Quammie, the Senior Street Environment Wardens at 0207 527 6587 or email: contact@islington.gov.uk or www.islington.gov.uk.** Also if your sleep is being disturbed by noisy garden or roof terrace parties let your Street Warden know. They are there to promote civic pride and encourage better behaviour with respect to anti-social activities.

REMEMBER to check the Whpara website: www.whpara.org.uk if you are looking for local and reliable tradespeople. We have compiled a list of useful addresses from known contacts.

CLOCKS GO FORWARD SUNDAY 27TH MARCH

MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or join Whpara fill out this tear-off slip and enclose £5.00 subscription per household for the year 2011.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....Tel.No.....

E-mail.....

WHPARA WILL NOT GIVE YOUR DETAILS TO ANY THIRD PARTY

Please return to **Heather Eggins, Membership Secretary, 74 Whitehall Park, N19** with your cheque or postal order made payable to WHPARA (no cash please. **Membership enquiries e-mail: heggins@btinternet.com**